

# Formed Police Units Workshop and Seminar

---



**Issue Paper No. 2006-04**  
January 2007

*By LTC Don Bohn*

The Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU) and the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UN DPKO) hosted a UN Workshop and Formed Police Unit (FPU) Seminar at CoESPU in an effort to promote interoperability principles and to provide an opportunity to share the experiences of former and serving Formed Police Unit Commanders. Subject matter experts from the Security and Rule of Law Reform section (SRLR) of the US Army Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute (PKSOI) attended these events to facilitate the continued development of FPUs as a organizational model that may be used to fill an identified gap in stability, security, transition and reconstruction (SSTR) and peace operations.

A FPU is a specialized, self-sufficient and fully mobile rapid reaction police unit. FPUs are currently comprised of 120 members; however, current discussions propose increasing this number to 145 members. FPUs are composed entirely of police elements from one contingent. The FPU is comprised of individuals with expertise in crowd management and other police tactical operations. FPUs are normally divided into three subunits and deploy in UN missions as cohesive units with unit integrity. These units can fill the security gap between military forces and civilian police relieving some of the military units' heavy burden and establishing an environment in which civilian police can operate more effectively within the rule of law.



FPUs are comprised of three major sections: the Support Staff, the Operation Enabling Staff Section and the Tactical Team. The Support Staff section provides the required feeding, maintenance, engineering and medical support in order for the unit to operate independently for short periods. The Operation Enabling Staff Section has an internal tactical intelligence gathering and analysis capability. This staff section also includes an operation coordination officer to interact with the other departments of the police component and of the mission as a

whole, as well as an IT communication officer. The third and final section, the Tactical Team, is the operational component of the unit and is further subdivided into three teams. Team members are trained in all aspects of crowd control and riot response tasks. The tactical team may also

---

**LTC Don Bohn** is the Director of Law Enforcement Operations at the Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute.

---

include within one of its teams an IED expert, sniper and special weapons and tactical specialists for advance tactical purposes. The composition of these specialized components of the tactical team varies as per the requirements of the different missions.

FPU require the following training in order to be in compliance with the initiatives of the relevant G-8 Action Plan:<sup>1</sup>

1. Crowd behaviour
2. Crowd control tactics and unarmed combat techniques (hand cuffing, disarming lethal weapons, knives, batons, etc.)
3. Use of non-lethal weapons including chemical agents
4. Use of firearms (safety handling, proficiency in shooting)
5. Human rights and humanitarian laws
6. Code of conduct and ethical legal responsibilities of police officers
7. Emergency medical services
8. SWAT training for specialized unit
9. Hostage negotiation and crises-management training



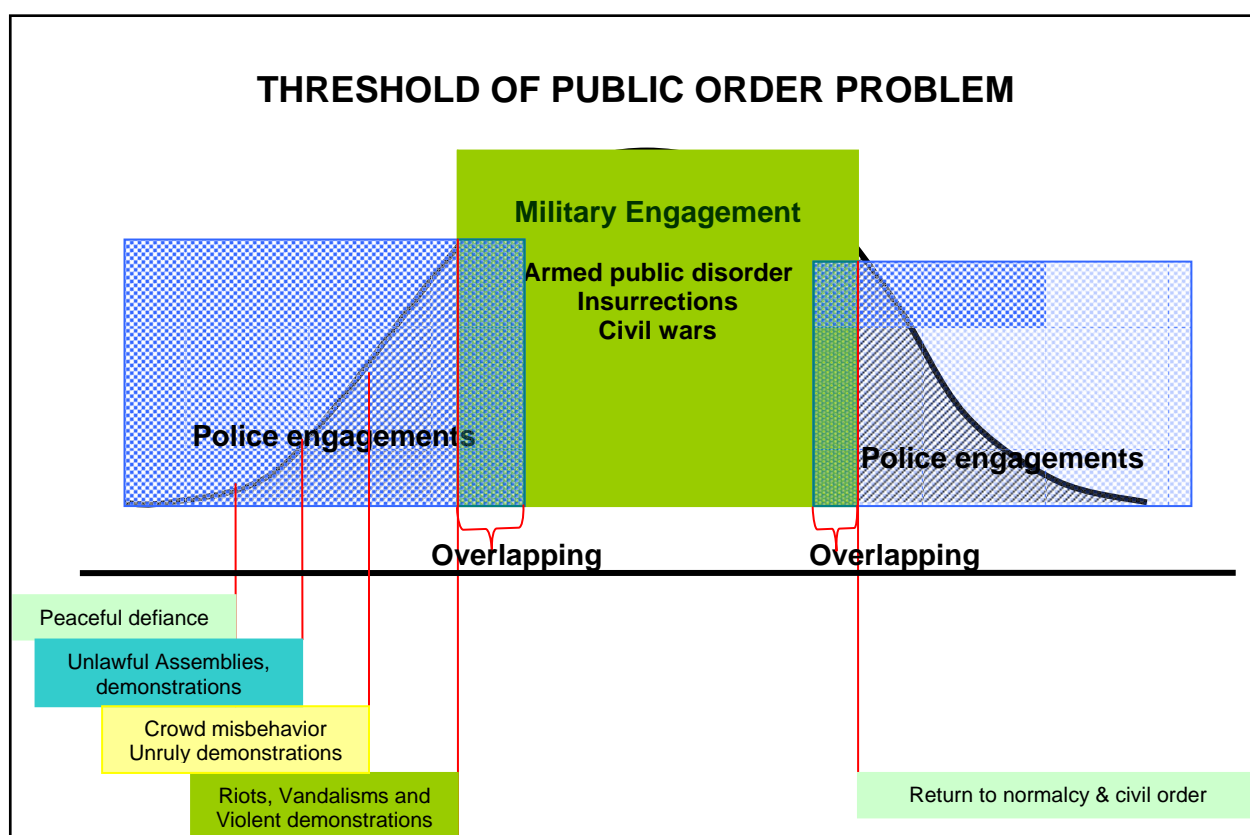
Group of Eight (G8) members recognized the importance of FPUs in conducting peacekeeping operations as well as the fact that there were insufficient numbers of such units in existence. As a result of the G-8 Sea Island summit meeting in June of 2004, G8 members agreed to an action plan for expanding global capability for peace and support operations. This plan called for the multinational establishment of an international training center that would serve as a Center of Excellence in providing training and skills for FPU type units. The Italians took the lead and set up the Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU) in Vincenza, Italy. The United States Government plays a supporting role with CoESPU. US participation is overseen by the US Department of State.

This G-8 Action Plan identified many objectives and training tasks for CoESPU as well. CoESPU's major objectives are to: (1) operate training programs, including "train the trainer" courses and pre-deployment training, (2) promote interoperability principles and providing interoperability training with the military forces and components, (3) develop common doctrine and operations procedures and (4) be an active part of the doctrinal network worldwide, interacting with international organizations, academic institutes and research centers in the relevant areas. CoESPU identified eight training tasks: (1) crowd control, (2) combating organized crime, (3) high risk arrests, (4) prison security, (5) protection of sensitive facilities, (6) election security, (7) VIP security, and (8) border control.

---

<sup>1</sup> G-8 Action Plan: Expanding Global Peace Support Operations as viewed at:  
<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2004seaisland/peace.html>

The members of the G-8 conference recognized that there is a need to grow FPU's in sufficient numbers as they anticipate peacekeeping missions continuing for the foreseeable future. In peacekeeping operations, most indigenous police are not yet capable of handling the myriad and magnitude of law enforcement issues arising in such unstable environments, thereby creating a gap between what that nation requires from a law enforcement perspective and what they are actually able to achieve, as the slide below shows. FPU's can fill this gap by performing specialized law enforcement and public order functions that require disciplined group actions. G-8 members, and in particular the United States Government, also perceive the near term need for such law enforcement gap-filling missions to be on the African continent. The UN already is conducting several missions in Africa, with the possibility of adding Darfur in the near future.



The joint seminar hosted by the UN DPKO and by CoESPU is indicative of the degree of cooperation that is both available and necessary. The workshop served to promote principles of interoperability and training with military forces as well as to begin the development of common doctrine for FPU's.

The paramilitary law enforcement discipline represented by FPU's is a dynamic and rapidly evolving specialty. Accordingly, the ability of the UN and G8 members, including the United States and Italy, to work intimately in developing FPU doctrine and training is paramount. Identification of a standard and uniform set of FPU objectives and mission essential tasks is an immediate concern. Determining these tasks and objectives will then lend itself to establishing

PKSOI Issue Paper 2006-04  
Formed Police Unit Workshop and Seminar

uniform tasks, conditions and standards for the training of FPU, which will assist the development of FPU exponentially. The use of ongoing missions to help develop “best practices” from ongoing missions will help prepare for and improve current FPU training and missions. With increased emphasis on sharing best practices and collaborative development of FPU doctrine and training, CoESPU is in a position to serve as the focal point for FPU. Such cooperation will not only make valuable use of the Italian Carabinieri expertise, assisting the Carabinieri in producing relevant doctrine, it will also meet the stated objectives of the UN, the G-8 and the United States.

This and other PKSOI publications can be found on the USAWC/PKSOI site at <http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usacsl/IPapers.asp>.

The views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect official policy or position of the United States Army War College, the Department of the Army, the Department of Defense, or any other Department or Agency within the U.S. Government. This report is cleared for public release; distribution is unlimited.